

3723

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*Admitted only in Maryland
*Admitted only in Virginia
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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 6, 2003

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MAR 10 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:

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INTERNET ADDRESS:

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Art Unit 3723

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/986,751; Filed: November 9, 2001
For: **Apparatuses and Methods for Cleaning Test Probes**
Inventor: Gary W. Grube
Our Ref: 2026.0010000/MVM/GSB

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

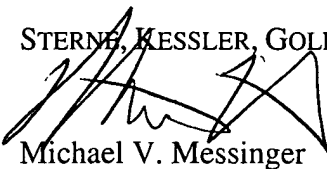
1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Forms PTO-1449 (2 pages citing 19 documents);
3. Copies of the 19 cited documents; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


Michael V. Messinger
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,575

MVM/GSB:krd

Enclosures

SKGF_DC1:103554.1



#12

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Gary W. Grube

Appl. No. 09/986,751

Filed: November 9, 2001

For: **Apparatuses and Methods for
Cleaning Test Probes**

Confirmation No. 5968

Art Unit: 3723

Examiner: Rose, Robert

Atty. Docket: 2026.0010000/MVM/GSB

Information Disclosure Statement**RECEIVED**

MAR 10 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☐ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- ☒ 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- ☐ 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to

the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

- ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form [OR] Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:
 - ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

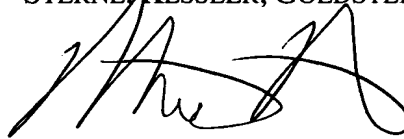
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☐ 7. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

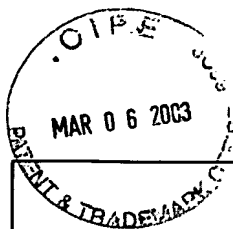
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Date: 3/6/03

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FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTATTY. DOCKET NO.
2026.0010000APPLICATION NO.
09/986,751APPLICANT
Gary W. GrubeFILING DATE
November 9, 2001GROUP
2862**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA1	4,757,255	7/1988	Margozzi	324	158F	3/3/86
	AB1	4,954,774	9/1990	Binet	324	158F	6/13/89
	AC1	4,778,326	10/1998	Althouse et al.	414	786	5/24/83
	AD1	5,198,752	9/1993	Miyata et al.	324	158F	7/31/91
	AE1	5,198,753	3/1993	Hamburgen	324	158F	6/29/90
	AF1	5,568,054	10/1996	Iino et al.	324	760	5/19/95
	AG1	5,690,749	11/1997	Lee	134	6	3/18/96
	AH1	5,834,946	11/1998	Albrow et al.	324	760	10/30/97
	AI1	6,056,627	5/2000	Mizuta	451	59	3/13/98
	AJ1	6,140,616	10/2000	Andberg	219	444,1	9/25/98
	AK1	6,184,053 B1	2/2001	Eldridge et al.	438	52	5/6/97

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL1	WO 00/33089	6/2000	WIPO			Yes No
	AM1	WO 95/14314	5/1995	WIPO			Yes No
	AN1	WO 96/17378	6/1996	WIPO			Yes No
	AO1						Yes No
	AP1						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR	<u>1</u>	
	AS	<u>1</u>	
	AT	<u>1</u>	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.



FORM PTO-1449 <u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u>	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 2026.0010000	APPLICATION NO. 09/986,751
	APPLICANT Gary W. Grube	
	FILING DATE November 9, 2001	GROUP 2862

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA2	5,476,211	12/1995	Khandros	228	180.5	11/16/93
	AB2	5,917,707	6/1999	Khandros et al.	361	776	11/15/94
	AC2	6,110,823	8/2000	Eldridge et al.	438	660	6/3/98
	AD2	6,255,126 B1	7/2001	Mathieu et al.	438	15	12/2/98
	AE2	6,169,409 B1	1/2001	Amemiya	324	754	5/4/98
	AF2						
	AG2						
	AH2						
	AI2						
	AJ2						
	AK2						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL2						Yes No
	AM2						Yes No
	AN2						Yes No
	AO2						Yes No
	AP2						Yes No

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OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)			
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	AS	2	
	AT	2	

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